

National Visa for research stay (Section 18d Residence Act)

1. General Information

Researchers are third-country nationals who have a doctoral degree or a suitable university degree that allows access to doctorate programs and have been selected by a research institute and are allowed in the national territory of a member state in order to engage in research for which such a qualification is normally required.

Please note that your visa application must be made in person and will be accepted only if all required documents are submitted according to our regulations.

Appointments can be booked online (free of charge) here:

www.tallinn.diplo.de/Terminvergabe

Each submitted document in original has to be accompanied by 2 copies. Documents in foreign languages have to be provided with a certified translation into German.

2. Fees

The fee for processing the visa application is 75 Euro. This amount has to be paid in cash or via credit card. This is a processing fee. Thus, a refund in case of withdrawal of the application or up-on denial is not possible.

3. Process

Processing time is as a rule ca. one week but can take longer in individual cases.

For the case a positive decision is taken on your visa application the visa can only be handed over to you if an evidence for an existing travel medical insurance is provided. This insurance has to cover the time period from your entry to Germany until the beginning of your employment. This does not apply if an evidence of a travel medical insurance already has been provided.

Use the following checklist to make sure your application documents are complete. All documents listed here are to be submitted in the request **form and order**.

4. Required documents

Please make sure that you provide a complete application form and all additional documents required. Incomplete applications will not be considered!

Each submitted document in original has to be accompanied by 2 copies. Documents in foreign languages have to be provided with a certified translation into German.

- 2** application forms (and declaration in accordance with section 54 (2) No. 8 i.V.m. § 53 of the Residence Act <https://videx-national.diplo.de/videx/visum-erfassung/#/videx-langfristiger-aufenthalt>)
- 2** recent biometric passport photographs (45x35 mm)
- your national passport (validity of which has to exceed at least six months; issued not earlier than 10 years ago) (original + 2 copies of all pages with records)
- Estonian residence permit (e.g. visa / residence card), held for at least 3 months at the time of application and at least held for additional 2 months after your entry to Germany (original + 2 copies)
- Signed research agreement or relevant contract with a German research institute (original and 2 copies). The research agreement /relevant contract needs to contain certain information. You can find a specimen here: <https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/Forschung/AnerkennungForschungseinrichtungen/nerkennungforschungseinrichtungen-node.html>
- Proof of qualification: Proof of doctoral degree or university degree that allows access to doctorate programs (all pages, original and 2 copies)
- Written commitment to cover costs emerging for public agencies up to 6 month after the end of the admission agreement (original and two copies).
This is not required if the work of the research institute is primarily public funded or if there is a specific public interest.
- Proof of adequate financial means
Financing
To stay in Germany the applicant must have at their disposal at least **939 Euro monthly** if they are not entering into a contract of employment. Proof of these financial means can be provided through the admission agreement/relevant contract. If an employment agreement is planned, proof of the statutory minimum wage of **1.621 Euro monthly** must be provided. When submitting an application, proof of financial means must be provided for the entire duration of the stay.

In case of financing in the form of blocked account:
Open the blocked account in good time before you apply for a visa. When applying for a visa, only the official confirmation of the opening of the account including information on the amount paid in and the amount available per month will be accepted. A confirmation which does not include this information is not sufficient.
You have free choice of provider. Information on providers that offer this service world-wide is available on Federal Foreign Office website
- Proof of health insurance for Germany during your entire stay (minimum coverage 30.000 Euro)

In individual cases it may be necessary to provide additional documents.

This fact sheet is regularly updated but makes no claim to be complete.